

Application Serial No. 09/881,341
Reply to July 5, 2005 Office Action

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Previously Filed Information Disclosure Statement

On October 27, 2004, Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") with a Form PTO-1449 citing two documents (copies of the cited documents were also provided). The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the October 27 IDS and return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 to Applicant.

Claim Status

Claims 1 - 24 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 19, and 23 are independent in form. Claim 2 is canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 3-24 are amended herein to correct minor informalities. Independent claims 1, 19, and 23 are further amended to require a switch adapted to connect or disconnect a power input unit and a power circuit "wherein power is supplied to said power circuit from said power input unit exclusively through said switch." Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification and drawings, as originally filed, for example, see FIGS. 1 and 7. Independent claims 1, 19, and 23 have been further amended to include the limitation of former claim 2. No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the

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Applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner asserts that the phrase "other apparatus" is vague and indefinite and further that it lacks antecedent basis.

Applicant respectfully disagrees and submits that the meaning of these claims is readily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art when read in conjunction with the specification.

Nonetheless, independent claim 1 has been amended to replace the first recitation of "the other apparatus" with "another apparatus." This recitation of "another apparatus" in independent claim 1 provides antecedent basis for later recitations of "the other apparatus" in claim 1 and claims 3-18, which ultimately depend from independent claim 1.

Regarding claims 19-22, Applicant notes that independent claim 19 already recites "another processing apparatus," which provides antecedent basis for later recitations of "the other processing apparatus" in claim 19 and in claims 20-22, which depend from claim 19. Thus, no corrective action is believed necessary in this regard for claims 19-22.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection applied to claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner observes that claims 1-24 use "comprising" without a colon. The affected claims have been appropriately amended. Claim 1 has been further amended to add the word "comprising:" which had been inadvertently omitted.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 18, 19, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,526,516 B1 to Ishikawa et al. ("Ishikawa") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,812,386 to Youn ("Youn").

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Applicant respectfully disagrees with the characterization of the pending claims and of the teachings attributed to the prior art in the stated rejections, and respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant has herein amended claims 1, 19 and 23 to further clarify the claimed invention. No new matter has been added by these amendments to the claims.

When Ishikawa and Youn are each viewed as a whole, Applicants respectfully submit, there is no motivation to combine their teachings, as suggested by the Examiner. Moreover, assuming *arguendo* that there was proper motivation at the time of Applicant's invention, which there was not, the combination of teachings would still not have resulted in Applicant's claimed subject matter.

Ishikawa is directed to a system in which a plurality of devices are interconnected through cables that supply both data signal lines and power lines, wherein each device has a power controller capable of interacting with a power controller of another device. Ishikawa, Abstract. In the system disclosed by Ishikawa, each device is not required to have a direct connection to an AC power source. For example, referring now to FIG. 6 of Ishikawa, a system is disclosed wherein each device in the system does not receive power directly from an AC power source. Instead, AC power is supplied only to AC adapter 123. The AC adapter 123 supplies power to a printer 117 through a cable 150. The printer 117 supplies power to an editor 139 through another cable 150. The editor 139 supplies power to a digital camera 109 through yet another cable 150.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 19, and 23 to require an apparatus having, *inter alia*, a power input unit "wherein said power input unit comprises a connector adapted to connect a power supply."

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Ishikawa does not teach or suggest providing each device with a connector adapted to connect a power supply. Ishikawa states:

Accordingly, each device constituting the direct printing system is connected to an AC power source supplied via a breaker, as a result of which stabilized supply of power is assured at all times.

In the example of the prior art described above, however, *an AC adapter connected to the AC power source to supply power is required to be connected to each of the connected devices*, namely to the digital camera, editor and printer. Cables serving as signal lines connecting the devices together so that data may be transferred among them also are necessary. *Consequently, the operation for making the connections to construct the system is troublesome and complicated.*

In addition, *a plurality of connectors for the AC adapters and signal lines are required for both the digital camera and editor. Thus, the prior art involves a number of problems not only in terms of user convenience but also in regard to the space required for the connectors of each device and the cost of making the connections.*

Ishikawa, col. 1, lines 5 – col. 2, line 6. (emphasis added)

Youn, on the other hand, is directed to a power supply control circuit for a single device, wherein the power supply control circuit is connected to an AC power source and generates DC power output intermittently at predetermined intervals during a power saving mode of operation. Youn, Abstract. For example, referring now to FIG. 2 of Youn, AC power is supplied to an AC power circuit 202. A power switching circuit 204, which receives a power control signal from a controller 208, is used to selectively couple AC power to an AC-DC converter 206. The AC-DC converter 206 outputs a first driving voltage that powers the controller 208 and a second driving voltage that powers a driving circuit 210.

However, the power supply control circuit disclosed by Youn is for a standalone device with a power saving mode. While in the power saving mode, AC power is intermittently

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supplied from the AC power circuit 202 to the AC-DC converter 206 through a thyristor SCR, which intermittently supplies the first driving voltage to the controller 208. Youn discloses, "while the capacitor C1 is being charged, the thyristor SCR is turned on, supplying the AC power input to the AC-DC converter 206." Youn, col. 2, lines 7-9. That is, even when the power switching circuit 204 is not activated, AC power is still intermittently supplied to the AC-DC converter 206 through the thyristor SCR. When the switching circuit 204 is activated, power is supplied through a relay RL. That is, Youn discloses, "if the power control signal is at the logic high state, the switching transistor TR is activated turning on the relay RL . . . the AC-DC converter 206 is provided with the AC power input via the contacts of the relay RL." Youn, col. 2, lines 23-26.

In the circuit disclosed by Youn, AC power is supplied to AC power circuit 202 to the AC-DC converter either through thyristor SCR or alternatively through relay RL. This arrangement allows the AC-DC converter 206 to draw a lower amount of power from the AC power circuit while in a power saving mode. Thus, to combine these references based on their teachings, if the power supply control circuit disclosed by Youn were used in the system disclosed by Ishikawa, it would have been used only in conjunction with the AC adapter 123 to intermittently supply power to source converter 122 and would not result in Applicant's claimed subject matter.

In contrast, the switch recited by independent claims 1, 19, and 23 advantageously allows a power supply to draw no power from a power input unit while in a power saving mode. For example, referring now to Applicant's FIG. 1, the DC power supply 105 draws no power from the AC input 120, while in a power saving mode. That is, while the claimed processing

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apparatus is not being used, there is no need for the DC power supply 105 to intermittently draw power from the AC input 120.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 19, and 23 to more clearly recite the claimed subject matter and clarify distinction between the claimed subject matter from prior art devices, such as those disclosed by Ichikawa and Youn. More particularly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 19, and 23 to require that "power is supplied to said power circuit from said power input unit *exclusively through said switch.*" (emphasis added) This structure advantageously allows the apparatus draw no power from the power input unit when the apparatus is not in use.

Youn fails to disclose the claimed switch. Moreover, the Examiner has conceded that Ishikawa fails to disclose the claimed switch. July 5, 2005 Office Action at 4. Therefore, even if the teachings of Ishikawa and Youn are properly combinable, which they are not, the combination fails to disclose, teach or suggest each and every claim limitation of independent claims 1, 19, and 23.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection applied to independent claims 1, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of Youn.

Dependent Claims

Dependent claims 4-11, 20, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,526,516 B1 to Ishikawa in view Youn, as applied to claims 1, 2, and 3 above, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 20020126516 by Joen ("Joen"). Further, dependent claims 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,526,516 B1 to Ishikawa in view Youn, as applied to claims 1, 2, and 3

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above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,334,719 B1 to Kimura ("Kimura"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Joel and Kimura fail to cure the above-stated deficiencies of Ichikawa and Youn regarding independent claims 1, 19, and 23. However, Applicant does not believe it necessary at this time to independently address the rejections of the dependent claims as Applicant believe that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. Applicant, however, reserves the right to address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present invention as recited in the claims presented herein is believed patentably distinct over the art of record and Applicant respectfully requests that the respective rejections and objections be withdrawn. The application is believed to be hereby placed in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

If any outstanding issues remain, however, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

AUTHORIZATION

While no fees or extension of time are believed necessary for this Amendment, should an extension of time be required for the timely submission of this paper, such extension is hereby petitioned, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4723.

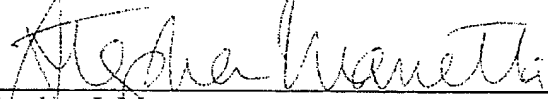
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An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: October 5, 2005

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